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**MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Statement by the President on 22 June

We now honor the Executive Director-Comptroller of the Central Intelligence Agency and, through him, we honor the institution which recognized and nurtured his outstanding talent.

In the nature of things, public accolades are rare for the CIA or its able Director, John A. McCone. Attacks on CIA, however, are not rare. Since they are not answered by the Agency, let me answer them.

I have known CIA well since my days in the Senate. They are thick-skinned and accustomed to attacks. But there is one recurrent charge that no government agency can live with - the charge that it is not accountable to the duly-elected representatives of the people.

CIA is responsible to me. Its activities are coordinated by the National Security Council and with the Departments of State and Defense. It is supervised by the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board headed by Mr. Clark Clifford, who reports to me. The Bureau of the Budget examines the CIA budget in detail. All this is in addition to the Congressional oversight exercised by the four CIA sub-committees in Congress.

To say or to imply that CIA is a dangerous, uncontrolled part of the government is to add fuel to the intense anti-CIA propaganda campaign waged abroad by the Communists. It also slanders a dedicated group of selfless men (like the men we honor today) who are serving their country well here in Washington or in the lonely outposts of the cold war.

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Over the past few years, hundreds of anti-CIA articles and broadcasts have been originated by the Communists or have been picked up by them from Western sources and re-played throughout the world. It is a process of denegration that goes on all the time and is re-fueled with every new charge that appears in the West.